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Welcome!


- > Format for Division Meeting Credit
- > Log in to Member Center with school/AD password
- > Enter your name and email address.
- > Watch video to completion.
- > If you are representing more than one school, email sally@iesa.org with additional school information.

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IESA Staff Assignments

- > Steve Endsley, Executive Director
 - Activities: Baseball, Wrestling, Cheer, Golf, Scholastic Bowl
 - Email: steve@iesa.org
- > Nicole Schaeftbauer, Associate Executive Director
 - Activities: Speech, Music, Chess, Cross Country, Track, Basketball, Softball, Bowling, Volleyball
 - Email: nicole@iesa.org
- > If you would ever like a member of the IESA Administrative staff to your school to present information, please contact the IESA Office to arrange a virtual meeting.


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Communication

- The majority of the communication from the IESA Office is done via email.
- Please make sure that the email addresses of your school's primary contact person and all coaches/sponsors have been correctly entered online every year.
 - Administrator information will be automatically included on your school's Regional Entry Forms. Please make sure this information is correct prior to your team's participation in any state series.
 - Check with your technology coordinator to make sure that the IESA domain (iesa.org) has been whitelisted.
- In addition, coaches/sponsors should include a CELL PHONE number when entering their participants online.
 - This is extremely important information for hosts and the IESA Office to have available.
- Questions or ruling requests should come from the member school.
 - Communicate to parents at the pre-season meeting to ask the school questions and then school should contact the IESA if a ruling/clarification is needed.
 - Parents requesting a ruling will be redirected back to their school.


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Mission of Junior High/Middle School Activities

- Member School Responsibilities
 - It is the responsibility of each member school to control its interscholastic athletic program in compliance with the rules and regulations of the Association.
 - It is the responsibility of each member school to protect the health of and provide a safe environment for each participating student.
 - In order to promote the character development of participants and to enhance the integrity of educating students, coaches and all others associated with their programs and events, member schools should adhere to fundamental values such as respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility.
- The ultimate educational objectives of the Association are:
 - to elevate standards of sportsmanship;
 - to encourage the growth of responsible citizenship; and
 - to encourage academic excellence


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Reminders to Coaches

- Develop a solid team culture
 - Establish the values that you want to act as the foundation for your team culture.
 - Make sure coach actions and words reflect the core values of your school and team.
- Appropriate sideline behavior
 - Remember all eyes are on you!
 - Keep a cool head.
- Keep winning and losing in perspective.
- For all contests- home and away- it is the obligation of every member school to maintain proper crowd control at all interscholastic activities.
 - THIS BEGINS WITH THE COACHING STAFF BEHAVIOR

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Pre-Season Meetings 

The Goals of the Pre-Season Mtg

- The rationale for the pre-season meeting is to involve the family and the school in a conscientious effort to be partners. Through such involvement, the opportunity for optimal growth and development of students is enhanced.
- Pre-season meetings provide a forum for students and their parents, school activities staff and other adult leaders to discuss issues, such as sportsmanship, school policy, risk of injury and program expectations.
- Everyone should leave your meeting with a better understanding of your athletic department philosophy, a better understanding of what is expected of them, and their role.
- The content of pre-season meetings should be a collaboration between school administration and the coaching staff. The message should be consistent.


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Pre-Season Meetings 

Resources

- There are several resources available in the IESA Member Center for use in your parent meetings.
 - Access this information by logging in to the IESA Member Center and click on the Information link located near the top of your school page.
- Resources available:
 - SAMPLE AGENDAS: There are several sample agendas that can be customized to your program.
 - IESA SPORTSMANSHIP VIDEO. This is a quick video that can be played to remind everyone of their role in creating a positive experience for everyone involved in the contest.
 - NFHS "The Parent Seat" video: This video has been designed specifically for schools to play at their parent meetings. It explains the role of a parent during game day and provides suggestions on how they can cope with the roller coaster of emotions that they will feel.


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Pre-Season Meetings 

State Series Format Changes

- The IESA released a general framework for sports and activities this year. This is a fluid plan and will be dictated by current conditions.
 - Seasons have been shortened. Winter/Spring seasons have been updated. Maximum number of contests for season has been updated.
 - Low risk fall sports are being conducted in the fall season.
 - Remaining activities have been scheduled for the Winter and Spring seasons.
 - At this time, only one level of state series will be offered (Regional for 3 tier activities, Sectional for 2 tier activities). If conditions change, it is possible that a complete state series could be offered.
 - While in this phase, schools may compete against schools:
 - Within their EMS region; OR
 - Within their conference; OR
 - Within a general geographic area (approx. 30 miles)
 - If approved locally, e-learning students could be eligible to participate.
 - Spectator and group gatherings subject to IDPH guidelines during this time.
 - Contact day opportunities have been added.

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Transfer Rule

The transfer rule was updated going into the 2020-21 school year.

- A student who transfers from one school to another school will be eligible to participate under the following guidelines:
 - The student did not participate in a tryout, organized practice or contest in that sport at their previous school during the IESA designated season for that sport.
- If the student meets the first criteria and all other eligibility requirements, they would be eligible to participate for their new school on their eleventh day of attendance.

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Legislative Waiver

- In cases where ISBE has granted a legislative waiver for children of certified staff members to attend school tuition-free, the student will have eligibility at their school of attendance within the district where the parent/guardian is a full-time staff member.
 - What is the definition of staff member?
 - Any school personnel who is employed by the district.
 - Employees must be full-time employees of the district.

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Sportsmanship Rules/Penalties Updated

New for 2020-21

- Player Penalty
 - 1st Offense:
 - Ineligible for the next two contests at the level where the ejection occurred and all other contests in the interim; and
 - Must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship online course prior to regaining eligibility. IESA Office must be notified when course completed prior to player returning to play. This will be done by providing a copy of the course completion certificate.
 - 2nd Offense:
 - Ineligible for the next five contests at the level where the ejection occurred and all other contests in the interim; and
 - \$100.00 fine


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Sportsmanship Rules/Penalties Updated

- Coach Penalty
 - 1st Offense:
 - Ineligible for the next two contests at the level where the ejection occurred and all other contests in the interim; and
 - Must complete the NFHS Sportsmanship online course prior to regaining eligibility. IESA Office must be notified when course completed prior to player returning to coach.
 - \$100.00 fine
 - 2nd Offense:
 - Ineligible for the next five contests at the level where the ejection occurred and all other contests in the interim; and
 - \$250.00 fine
- Fan Penalty
 - Any fan ejected from a contest may not return to future contests until he/she has completed the NFHS Sportsmanship online course.
 - Course completion must be presented to school administration.
- Schools will be able to track the completion of tasks on their activity tracker.


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Fan Seating- Post-Season

- In an effort to assist contest management during post-season contests, spectator seating will not be available in the front row of any post-season contest in girls and boys basketball and volleyball.
 - Exceptions may be made for elderly guests and guests with special seating needs as space allows.

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IESA Policy Updates

- Policy information may be found in the IESA Handbook.
 - Publicity Policy
 - Email Policy
 - Severe Weather Guidelines
 - Recommendation for Transgender Participation- Please remember that information must be submitted for regular season and post-season participation.
 - Emerging Activities
 - Drone Policy
 - Varsity/Non-Varsity Definitions and Policy
 - Policy for Accommodation Request- NEW


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Copyright Reminder

- > It is important to be cautious whenever publicly using published works or copyrighted material.
 - As with any material, whether it is printed or recorded, please ensure you have rights to use protected content. This extends to any music you might use at your school during public events. There are individuals that monitor these uses intently and are actively in pursuit of violators. In the ever-increasing litigious environment we inhabit, we encourage you to review this with your staff and hopefully prevent any issues you might incur.
- > The NFHS has a free course explaining what copyright means and when there may be exceptions. It discusses Fair Use, when a piece of music might be in the Public Domain, copyright infringement penalties and much more.
 - <https://nfhslearn.com/courses/understanding-copyright-and-compliance>


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Concussion Education Requirements

- > The Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act applies to all public, private, and charter elementary and secondary schools with students enrolled who participate in an interscholastic athletic activity.
- > Schools must:
 - Establish a Concussion Oversight Team
 - Responsible for developing Return-to-Play (RTP) and Return-to-Learn (RTL) protocols.
 - Establish a school/venue emergency action plan for interscholastic athletic activities.
- > Students must:
 - Receive concussion information prior to participation and sign-off on receipt of this information.
 - Only required once per student per school year.
 - Be removed immediately from practice/competition if they are believed to have suffered a concussion.
 - Follow RTP protocols before returning to practice/competition.
 - Must provide school with written clearance from physician and provide signed consent form from parent/guardian.


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Concussion Education Requirements

- > Coaches must:
 - Complete an approved concussion training course every two years.
 - Approved concussion courses:
 - o IHSA/IESA Course - Available in the IHSA or IESA Member Centers.
 - o Illinois Bone and Joint Institute
 - o Global Compliance Network
 - o SportsBrain
 - o Athletico
 - Contact information for the other approved courses may be found in the Member Center
 - Coaches must be in compliance prior to practice/competition.
 - Provide proof of completion of this training to their school.
 - If the training was completed in the IHSA Member Center, a coach's name does not automatically appear in the IESA Member Center.
- > Resources
 - Available on the IESA and IHSA websites.
 - RTP, RTL, and Emergency Plan Information


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NFHS Learn Resources

- > Free Courses/Videos that are available on the NFHS Learn website (www.nfhslearn.com):
 - **Protecting Students From Abuse**- Abusive behaviors and misconduct do not belong within athletic and activity programs. The course presents definitions of several types of abusive behaviors and misconduct, the signs and symptoms of abuse, and the ways in which someone can report these behaviors. The course also includes some DOs and DON'Ts for making a report.
 - **ACL Injury Prevention**- This course is designed to teach you about the causes of ACL injury, how to identify and correct movement deficiencies that can lead to ACL injuries, and how to effectively lead a Neurodynamic Warm-Up before practices and games.
 - **Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**- With a focus on wellness, including both physical and psychological, this course highlights causes, strategies and provides helpful resources. For students, their peers and anyone responsible for their care and well-being, take the course *Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention*.
 - **Positive Sport Parenting**- Positive Sport Parenting provides information and resources to help educate you on the importance of proper behavior by parents in school sports and the role you must play to ensure your child has a positive sport experience.
 - **Engaging Effectively With Parents**- This course features specific guidance for speaking, listening, and implementing a communication system, and provides strategies for dealing with problematic parents and guardians. The course provides many printable resources coaches can use in their programs.
- > Many others are available. Please share this website as a resource for your coaches.


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Activity Specific Information

- > Baseball
 - 12 run rule
 - Pitching limitations
- > Softball
 - Debut of 3 class format
 - Coaches must ensure that all player equipment is legal and in playable condition.
 - Officials will not be conducting an equipment check prior to contests.
- > Boys and Girls Basketball
 - If weather forces a sectional to be rescheduled, the host must reschedule for Thursday. If host cannot schedule for Thursday, the contest will be released to the participating schools.


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Activity Specific Information

- > Volleyball
 - Reminder of Individual Limitations (number of sets allowed)
 - Please pay attention to information in the Terms and Conditions regarding keeping a scorebook throughout the regular and post-season
 - Reminder of the solid-colored uniform top requirement
- > Wrestling
 - For all dual meets and tournaments, a maximum of two personnel (coaches and/or non-participating contestants) will be permitted on chairs at the edge of the mat.
 - Wrestlers must weigh in for all meets; no weight allowances


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Activity Specific Information

- > Track and Field
 - Sectional meets may be held on Friday or Saturday. Date of meet to be decided by the host.
 - Significant changes to Individual limitations.
 - All races run at the Sectional meet will be timed finals.
 - Four class system to be implemented for the 2020-21 school year. Please consider hosting a sectional meet.
- > Music
 - Jazz Choir added to Organization events.
 - If you have a student or band that would be interested in performing at an IESA State Championship, please submit the Pep Band/ National Anthem Singer applications.
- > Chess
 - Additional round of play added to the tournament.
 - Score groups updated to reflect additional round.

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Activity Specific Information

- > Cheer
 - Routine division music can be up to two minutes
 - Saturday coaches meeting is no longer mandatory, a video will be emailed to schools with the final schedule.
 - The competition has been postponed. The IESA will be looking at possible reschedule dates.
- > Bowling
 - Matching uniform top requirement
 - Cleaning agents are not allowed during competition
 - Update to third offense for coaching violation
 - Injury substitution clarified

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Executive Director Comments

Thank you for attending the 2020-21 IESA Division Meeting!

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